

April 14, 2009

Mr. Don Becker
Town of Holland
W3005 County Road G
Cedar Grove, WI 53013

Don,

The Village of Cedar Grove (VOCG) and Town of Holland (TOH) have shared a joint fire department for many years. As of January 1, 2009 the joint fire department has been operating under an expired agreement. Numerous attempts have been made over the past year to create a new operating agreement, but VOCG and TOH have been unable to be of the same mind on how it should proceed. In fact, the more discussion our two boards engage in the further apart we seem to become. It appears that it would be very difficult or impossible to reach an equitable agreement at any time in the foreseeable future.

VOCG understands that TOH is trying to do what is in the best interest of its residents just as VOCG has an obligation to do what is best for the people that reside in the village. It is obvious that each municipality has vastly different objectives and we are simply wasting our time trying to agree on something that we fundamentally disagree on. Therefore, The Village of Cedar Grove Board would like to proceed in dissolving the joint fire department with TOH.

The first step towards dissolving the joint fire department would be to have all equipment and fire trucks appraised as soon as possible. Once a value has been placed on said items we would then decide on a fair and equitable distribution of the equipment. A time line should also be put into place that would bring this dissolution to completion no later than June 30, 2009.

TOH is welcome to request a service contract with VOCG to cover certain portions of TOH after the joint fire department has been dissolved. This contract would most likely be a simple billing per call, per piece of equipment, and per man hour as well as the cost of water. These rates would not be negotiable and TOH may not desire to enter into a service contract with VOCG. After all, we have been made aware that other municipalities are much less expensive to deal with than VOCG.

We thank you in advance for understanding and respecting our position. We look forward to hearing back from you regarding this issue.

Regards,

Mark Post
Village of Cedar Grove